The March 21 editorial "The PTA's trendy new agenda" represents an unusual perspective for a newspaper, whatever their political stripe: a fear of simple information. The editorial applauds parents at Madison Elementary School who voted against a state PTA resolution "promoting access to information about homosexuality" and "opposing discrimination, harassment and violence" against gay youth. Unfortunately for readers, the editorial stops short of discussing the actual resolution, choosing instead to pigeon hole it with the increasingly meaninglessness brand of "politically correct."

Hardly an endorsement of homosexuality, the resolution cites statistics which indicate adolescents who believe they are gay are more likely to commit suicide, drop out of school and be subjected to verbal and physical harassment. The resolution proposes giving parents, students, and school personnel access to information about homosexuality, and further stipulates such information be age-appropriate for students. Beyond that, the resolution simply makes a statement against "discrimination, harassment and violence" aimed at gay youth.

Where's the danger in providing access to information? Is it preferable to create a forced silence on an issue featured in more and more daily headlines? By supporting open access to information access, the Colorado PTA acted faithfully on their commitment to all students. For this they should be commended, not chastised. Further, they should be encouraged for taking the first step in approaching an evolving and highly complex issue which merits discussion.

At time when information about homosexuality is subject to increasing sensationalism, it's simply irresponsible to add to the confusion by silencing discussions, especially in an environment where students should be encouraged to ask difficult questions.

Admittedly, the answers are not easy. Ridiculing the idea of helping gay adolescents, however, and reducing it "empty posturing of political correctness" serves no one. Fear of being different can turn simple tasks like buying tennis shoes into life-changing decisions for teenagers. What can we possibly gain by adding to this kind of torment.

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